

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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DRC-01 /149 W

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R 140925Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0228

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2962

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KU, JO, LE, PINS

SUBJ: KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER ON PALESTINIANS AND LEBANON

SUMMARY: KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN RECONCILIATION. HE URGED US TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO DETER ISRAELIS FROM CONTINUING ATTACKS ON LEBANON. END SUMMARY

1. DURING BRIEF CALL ON FONMIN SABAH AL-AHMAD JULY 13 I OBSERVED THAT, IN VIEW ITS SPECIAL INTEREST IN PALESTINIANS, GOK SHOULD BE VERY PLEASED WITH REMARKS OF A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TO REPORTERS JULY 11. I NOTED OFFICIAL HAD SAID IT WILL BE DESIRABLE AT SOME POINT FOR HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL CONTACTS TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN AMERICANS AND PALESTINIANS, AND ALSO, THAT WHOLE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IS GOING TO RECEIVE LOT OF ATTENTION. OFFICIAL HAD MADE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSION WOULD BE PREMATURE NOW BECAUSE NEITHER QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION AT
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GENEVA CONFERENCE NOR MATTER OF WHO SPEAKS FOR THE PALESTINIANS

HAVE BEEN SETTLED.

2. FONMIN REPLIED HE COULD ADMIT TO CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM ABOUT PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN VIEW TWIN FACTS THAT TOP USG LEADERSHIP NOW CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD ISSUES INVOLVED AND ISRAELIS HAD ADMITTED PUBLICLY THAT TALKS WITH PALESTINIANS WERE CONCEIVABLE.

3. I ASKED FONMIN IF HE THOUGHT THERE WAS ANY REASONABLE HOPE (A) PALESTINIANS WOULD SOON SORT OUT AMONG THEMSELVES WHO WAS TO SPEAK FOR THEIR SIDE AND (B) THAT JORDANIANS AND PALESTINIANS WOULD REACH SOME UNDERSTANDING OR RECONCILIATION. SABAH REPLIED ROLE OF USG VERY IMPORTANT IN ACHIEVING BOTH THESE NECESSARY STEPS. PLO, WITH FATAH AND SAIQA SUPPORT, WAS ON RIGHT TRACK AND MUST BE ENCOURAGED. FONMIN ADDED KING HUSSEIN DUE IN KUWAIT FOR TWO HOUR STOP EVENING JULY 13 AND KUWAITIS INTENDED URGE HIM TOWARD RECONCILIATION SOONEST WITH PLO, "WHICH IS IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST INCLUDING USA."

4. FONMIN SAID MOST DANGEROUS ASPECT OF MIDEAST RIGHT NOW, HOWEVER, WAS ISRAELI ATTACKS ON LEBANON. US, HE CONTENTED, MUST DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE DETER ISRAEL FROM CONTINUING THEM. I SAID WE WERE CLEARLY ON RECORD AS OPPOSED TO VIOLENCE FROM WHATEVER QUARTER.

5. FONMIN WAS NOT VERY FORTHCOMING IN ANSWER MY QUESTION ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING IN CAIRO. HE SAID HE PREFERRED NOT GO INTO DETAILS, BUT PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO HELP LEBANON DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ISRAELI ATTACKS; AND SINCE ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON WAS AGREED UPON, MEETING COULD BE SAID TO BE SUCCESSFUL. FONMIN ADDED US IN ITS OWN INTEREST SHOULD ALSO HELP PROTECT LEBANON.
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